

MCH Training Program 2006-2007 Strategic Planning Workgroups

Interdisciplinary Practice Teleconference July 26, 2006

Meeting Notes

Introductions

- **MCH Training Resource Center:** Sheryl Mathis, Judy Gallagher, Anita Farel introduced themselves as Resource Center staff. Judy Gallagher and Sheryl Mathis will be the Resource Center liaisons for the Interdisciplinary Practice Workgroup. The role of the Resource Center liaisons will be to facilitate workgroup calls and meetings, coordinate communication between workgroup members and the 4 workgroups. The facilitators will also act as resource persons to assist with identifying and/or compiling background materials needed by the group to move forward with specific tasks and coordinate activities of this workgroup with the work of the other groups.
- **MCHB Project Officer and Workgroup Liaison:** Nanette Pepper, Denise Sofka and Laura Kavanagh were present on the call. Nanette and Denise will act as the MCHB liaisons for the workgroup. The role of the MCHB liaisons will be to provide guidance as needed on MCHB priorities and workgroup activities as well as providing a MCH Training Program context for issues addressed by the workgroup.
- **Workgroup Members Present:** Jean Ivey, Penny Leggott, Sandy Lobar, Mary Marcus, Lew Margolis, John McLaughlin, Bruce Shapiro and Bonnie Spear. Several other members of the workgroup were unable to participate in this call due to vacations and other previous commitments.

Workgroup Purpose/Mandate and Proposed Activities

Facilitators reviewed the purpose of the workgroup and proposed activities as stated in the *Priority MCH Training Workgroups 2006-2007* document. The purpose of this document was to illustrate the role of grantee workgroups in promoting the Strategic Plan and to identify potential partners who could provide additional support or resources to the work of the groups. The overarching focus of the Interdisciplinary Practice workgroup is primarily on Strategic Plan goals 3 and 5; the workgroup will focus on creating strategies to facilitate, support and assess interdisciplinary training and practice.

Desired Outcomes for the Workgroup and Priority Activities

Laura Kavanagh made a request for input from the workgroup on development of the research questions and guidance for a new research grant on assessing the effectiveness of interdisciplinary training. The Bureau is in the process of developing the guidance and it is expected to be released in the fall. The timing of this activity makes it the first priority activity

for the workgroup. More information about specific input desired by the Bureau will be distributed prior to the next workgroup call.

In discussing other priorities for interdisciplinary practice, participants focused on the following areas:

- Is there a standard definition and shared understanding of Interdisciplinary Practice within the Training Program? Participants questioned how to assess the effectiveness of interdisciplinary training without a standard definition. MCH Training Project Directors have come together in the past to discuss aspects of this issue (2005 Joint Meeting on ID Training & Care) and the efforts of this workgroup should build on that work.
- In order to examine the effectiveness of interdisciplinary training we must identify what interdisciplinary practice looks like in the real world; how do students exposed to interdisciplinary training apply it at the community/practice level?
- The ability of programs to follow up with trainees at 1, 5, and 10 years post-training and gather quality data is critical in assessing impact and effectiveness. There needs to be greater uniformity in the follow-up. Currently many programs have developed their own survey tool, although the LEAH, PPC and LEND grantees are using a more uniform tool through AUCD's National Information and Reporting System (NIRS). Data currently collected does not specify how trainees define 'interdisciplinary' practice.
- What are the common training curricula elements across disciplines; what skills do the various practice areas share?

The key monitoring and reporting priorities agreed upon by the group were:

- Providing feedback on research questions and elements to be included in the new research grant guidance.
- Identifying a shared definition of interdisciplinary practice
- Identifying what interdisciplinary practice looks like in the real world
- Examining how interdisciplinary training prepares trainees for real world interdisciplinary practice.

Drafting a Workplan

HSR will develop a draft workplan based on the priority activities identified by the workgroup members during the conference call discussion and input provided by members who were not able to make the call.

Next Steps

- Notes from today's conference and the draft plan will be circulated to the group for review and comment.

- The next workgroup call will take place the week of August 21st. Group members will email Sheryl Mathis with their availability when the meeting notes are distributed. Potential dates and times for the next call include:

Monday 8/21: 12:00 **or** 4pm EDT.

Tuesday 8/22: 12:00 **or** 4pm EDT.

Wednesday 8/23: between 12:00 and 4pm EDT

Instructions for accessing the call will be emailed to the group once the date and time is set.

- The agenda for the next call is to obtain feedback and finalize the draft work plan, and to discuss timeline and persons responsible for taking the lead on specific tasks.